

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
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UNCLAS LENINGRAD 00913

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (PRICE, MELVIN)

SUBJ: CODEL PRICE: PRESS COVERAGE OF LENINGRAD PORTION
OF VISIT

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF PRESS ITEM ON
CODEL'S VISIT TO LENINGRAD WHICH APPEARED IN SUNDAY MARCH
26 EDITIONS OF LENINGRAD'S TWO MAJOR MORNING PAPERS:
LENINGRAD'S PARTY PAPER "LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA" AND
KOMSOMOL DAILY, "SMENA". ITEM WAS IDENTICAL IN BOTH
PAPERS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "YESTERDAY A GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN FROM
THE U.S.A., HEADED BY MELVIN PRICE, DEMOCRAT
FROM ILLINOIS, ARRIVED IN LENINGRAD. THE GUESTS ARE
UNDERTAKING A TOURIST TRIP THROUGH THE USSR.

"A DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE LENINGRAD CITY COUNCIL OF THE CONGRESSMEN WITH THE
FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE CITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
M.D. FILONOV.

"PARTICIPATING IN THE DISCUSSION WERE THE DIRECTOR OF THE
USA AND CANADA INSTITUTE OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OF
THE USSR, ACADEMICIAN G.A. ARBATOV, AND DEPUTIES OF THE
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SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR, RSFSR AND CITY COUNCIL. AT
THE DISCUSSION WERE PRESENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
PRESIDIUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR AND OF THE
USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

"ALSO PRESENT WAS THOMPSON R. BUCHANAN, CONSUL GENERAL OF
THE USA IN LENINGRAD.

"AT THE MONUMENT TO THE MOTHERLAND AT PISKARYOV MEMORIAL CEMETERY, THE USA REPRESENTATIVES HONORED THE MEMORY OF LENINGRADERS AND THE SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN THE CITY'S BLOCKADE. THE GUESTS ALSO LAYED A BOUQUET OF RED ROSES AT THE MONUMENT TO THE HEROIC DEFENDERS OF LENINGRAD ON VICTORY SQUARE." END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE LAST MINUTE UP-GRADING IN THE STATUS OF CODEL'S RECEPTION AT AIRPORT BY PRESENCE OF USA-CANADA DIRECTOR ARBATOV, G.P. MALTSEV FROM PRESIDUM OF SUPREME SOVIET, MID SECTION CHIEF LOMOVSEV, AND RSFSR SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTY CHICHEROV, SOVIETS APPARENTLY HAVE NOT CHANGED THEIR DESCRIPTION OF CODEL'S VISIT AS "TOURIST" IN NATURE. TO MINIMIZE ANY LOCAL MISUNDERSTANDING ON THIS POINT, CONSUL GENERAL LED OFF HIS MARCH 23 CALL ON MID'S CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE IN LENINGRAD, M.A. YEFIMOV (TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF VISIT) BY READING HIM, AND PRESENTING HIM WITH A COPY OF, TEXT OF CHAIRMAN PRICE'S MARCH 22 PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT SETTING FORTH SUBSTANTIVE INTERESTS OF CODEL'S TRIP. BUCHANAN

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